Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the broad features of the Teesta Barrage Project and the benefits likely to be derived therefrom;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the project so far; and

(c) the share of the Union Government therein?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The Teesta Barrage Project (First sub-stage of Stage-I) comprises of three barrages across the Teesta, the Mahananda and the Dauk rivers and Teesta-Mahananda link canal alongwith Mahananda, Dauk-Nagar, Nagar-Tangon, Teesta-Jaldhaka Main Canals supported by extensive distribution system. It also envisages generation of 67.5 Mega Watt hydro-power from the canal falls on the Mahananda Main Canal. The planned irrigation potential of the project is about 5.27 lakh hectares to benefit the districts of Jalpaigurl, Darjeeling, West Dinajpur, Cooch Bihar and Malda.

(b) An expenditure of about Rs. 352 crores have been incurred upto the end of June, 1991 against the late estimated cost of Rs. 695 crores of the project.

(c) There is no share of Union Government in the Project, however, special Central Assistance of Rs. 5 crores during 1983-84 and advance plan assistance of Rs. 15 crores during 1986-87 and Rs. 10 crores during 1987-88 was provided for the project.

Production of Wheat

1288. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of wheat during the last three years in Punjab, year-wise;

(b) whether there is a decline in production; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The estimated production of wheat in the State of Punjab during the last three years is as under:

	(lakh tonnes)
1988-89	115.8
1989-90	116.8
1990-91 (Final)	121.6

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Production of Natural Gas

1289. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a plant to increase the production of natural gas to meet the demands of various States;

(b) if so, the details of the quantity of natural gas produced during the last three years and the quantity of natural gas supplied to various States, State-wise; and

(c) the extent of quantity of natural gas the Government propose to increase for supply to Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The gas produced in the year 1088-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 is 13214, 16989 and 17938 million cubic metres respectively. Statewise use is as follows:-